Article 34

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CLAIMS

1. A method for generating an edited programme made up from a sequence of programme elements selected from a series of pre-recorded programme elements the content of which are related and which together make up a single programme, wherein the programme elements are classified by the producer of the single programme on the basis of programme element content category such that each programme element is allocated to at least one of a predetermined set of classes and all programme elements allocated to the same class exhibit common programme element content features, each programme element is stored with at least one associated programme classification code, each classification code identifies a class to which the associated programme element has been allocated, and the edited programme is generated by selecting at least one programme classification code and presenting programme elements associated with the said at least one programme classification code.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein each programme element is classified by reference to a type of event to which the element relates.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein each programme element is classified by reference to a subjective assessment of the value of the element,

4. A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim, wherein programme element selection is controlled automatically by applying predetermined selection criteria.

5. A method according to ~~any one claims 1 to 3,~~ claim 1 wherein programme element selection is controlled by an operator of a display device.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein symbols are displayed representing the class of each stored programme element, and the operator selects programme elements by selection of associated symbols.

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7.   A method according to claim 6, wherein symbols are displayed in an order corresponding to the temporal order of events represented by the associated programme elements.

8.   A method according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the operator selects a sub-set of the classes, and symbols corresponding only to programme elements of the sub-set of classes are displayed.

9.   A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ *Claim 1,* wherein a programme is generated comprising a plurality of programme elements which are presented simultaneously.

10.   A method according to claim 9, wherein video and audio programme elements are presented simultaneously.

11.   A method according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein still image and video programme elements are presented simultaneously.

12.   A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim, wherein the programme elements are transmitted to and stored at a user's receiver with the associated programme classification codes, and a programme is generated by selection of classification codes at the receiver.

13.   A method according to claim 12, wherein only programme elements associated with a sub-set of the classes are transmitted to the receiver, the sub-set being selected by a user of the receiver.

14.   A method according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein only received programme elements corresponding to a sub-set of the classes are stored at the receiver, the sub-set being selected by a user of the receiver.

15.   A method according to claim 12, 13 and 14, wherein received programme elements and pre-recorded programme elements stored on a data carrier in a memory device of the receiver are combined to generate the programme.

16.   A method according to claim 12, 13, 14 or 15, wherein at least one stored programme element is read out such that the duration of the programme element in the generated programme is less than the time taken to transmit the data packet of that programme element from the transmitter.

17.   A method for generating a programme for presentation at a receiver by transmitting a stream of programme element data packets and associated programme generation control data to the receiver, storing the programme element data packets and associated programme generation control data at the receiver, and generating a programme by reading out the programme element data packets in a manner dependent upon the programme generation control data, the programme element data packets being read out such that the duration of at least one programme element in the generated programme is less than the time taken to transmit the data packet of that programme element from the transmitter.

18.   A method according to claim 17, wherein the generated programme includes repeats of transmitted programme elements.

19.   A method according to claim 17 or 18, wherein symbols representative of the control data associated with stored programme element data packets are displayed to a user of the receiver, and the programme is generated on the basis of a selection of the displayed symbols made by the user of the receiver.

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20.   A method according to claim 17 ~~or 18~~, wherein the programme is generated from the stored programme element data packets on the basis of a predetermined control data processing procedure.

21.   An apparatus for generating an edited programme made up from a sequence of programme elements selected from a series of pre-recorded programme elements the content of which are related and which together make up a single programme, wherein the programme elements are classified by the producer of the single programme on the basis of programme element content category such that each programme element is allocated to at least one of a predetermined set of classes and all programme elements allocated to the same class exhibit common programme element content features, comprising means for storing each programme element with at least one associated programme classification code, each classification code identifies a class to which the associated programme element has been allocated, means for selecting at least one programme classification code, and means for presenting programme elements associated with the said at least one programme classification code.

22.   An apparatus for generating a programme for presentation at a receiver, comprising means for transmitting a stream of programme element data packets and associated programme generation control data to the receiver, means for storing the programme element data packets and associated programme generation control data at the receiver, and means for generating a programme by reading out the programme element data packets in a manner dependent upon the programme generation control data, the programme generating means reading out programme element data packets such that the duration of at least one programme element in the generated programme is less than the time taken to transmit the data packet of that programme element from the receiver.

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23. A method for generating a programme for presentation as a sequence of programme elements from a set of pre-recorded programme elements substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

24. An apparatus for generating a programme for presentation as a sequence of programme elements from a set of pre-recorded programme elements substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.